

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



Applicant : Hiroshi NOMURA

Group Art Unit : 2851

Appl. No. : 10/646,871

Examiner : David M. GRAY

Filed : August 25, 2003

Confirmation No. : 1672

For : LENS BARREL INCORPORATING THE LINEAR GUIDE
MECHANISM

FIRST SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
220 20th Street S.
Customer Window, Mail Stop _____
Crystal Plaza Two, Lobby, Room 1B03
Arlington, VA 22202

Sir :

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and §§1.97-1.98 and supplemental to the Information Disclosure Statement that was previously filed, Applicant hereby calls to the Examiner's attention the following documents:

In particular, Applicant notes that below-identified documents (1)-(18) were identified by a U.S. Patent Examiner in an Office Action in at least one of the following 27 co-pending, commonly assigned patent applications, of which the present application is a member: 10/646,748, 10/646,872, 10/646,824, 10/646,711, 10/646,735, 10/646,836, 10/646,871, 10/646,908, 10/646,788, 10/646,724, 10/646,736, 10/646,882, 10/646,884, 10/646,907, 10/646,835, 10/646,723, 10/646,698, 10/646,811, 10/646,771, 10/646,860, 10/646,895, 10/646,772, 10/646,812, 10/646,859, 10/646,712, 10/646,759, and 10/646,800:

- (1) U.S. Patent No. 4,937,609;
- (2) U.S. Patent No. 4,974,949;
- (3) U.S. Patent No. 5,099,263;
- (4) U.S. Patent No. 5,210,644;
- (5) U.S. Patent No. 5,376,983;
- (6) U.S. Patent No. 5,636,062;
- (7) U.S. Patent No. 5,870,232;
- (8) U.S. Patent No. 5,912,772;
- (9) U.S. Patent No. 5,926,322;
- (10) U.S. Patent No. 6,490,099;
- (11) U.S. Patent No. 6,570,718. Applicant notes that this document was cited by the Examiner in the present application;
- (12) U.S. Patent No. 6,611,663;
- (13) U.S. Patent No. 6,711,349;
- (14) U.S. Patent No. 6,757,489;
- (15) U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0017738;
- (16) U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0181953;
- (17) U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0007796. Applicant notes that this document was cited by the Examiner in the present application;
- (18) An English language translation of Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 2002-277719, which was published on September 25, 2002. Applicant notes that the Japanese document is already of record (and a copy is thus not being submitted

herewith), and that this Japanese document is a family member of U.S. Patent No. 6,665,129;

Applicant also calls the following documents to the Examiner's attention:

(19) Pentax Press News, "Pentax Optio S", February 4, 2003, together with an English language translation of the same. Applicant notes that this document is not believed to be prior art, since it was published after Applicant's priority date and since it describes Applicant's own disclosure. Applicant further believes that this document is cumulative to U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0156832, which is already of record. However, Applicant has provided this news release in the interest of full compliance with Applicant's duty of disclosure;

(20) Digital CAPA March 2003, which was publicly released on February 20, 2003, together with an English language translation of the same. Applicant also notes that this document is not believed to be prior art, since it was published after Applicant's priority date and since it describes Applicant's own disclosure. Applicant further believes that this document is cumulative to U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0156832, which is already of record. However, Applicant has provided this article in the interest of full compliance with Applicant's duty of disclosure; and

(21) Pentax News Release, "A High-Quality Zoom Lens Digital Camera so Small that it Fits into a Tin of Altoids", January 8, 2003. Applicant notes that this document is not believed to be prior art since it describes Applicant's own disclosure. Applicant further believes that this document is cumulative to U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0156832, which is already of record. However, Applicant has provided this news release in the interest of full compliance with Applicant's duty of disclosure.

Applicant also brings to the Examiner's attention the following documents which were submitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office by a third party on October 4, 2004 for the file wrapper of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0156832:

(22) U.S. Patent No. 5,086,312. Applicant notes that this document was previously considered by the Examiner in a previously submitted Information Disclosure Statement;

(23) U.S. Patent No. 5,548,446;

(24) U.S. Patent No. 5,765,049. Applicant notes that this document was previously considered by the Examiner in a previously submitted Information Disclosure Statement; and

(25) Japanese Publication No. 2003-149723, together with an English language translation of the same. Applicant notes that this document was published *after* the present application's foreign priority date, and is thus not prior art. Nevertheless, in the interest of full disclosure, Applicant has provided herewith a copy of the Japanese publication and translation of the same.

Further to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's decision to waive the requirement under 37 C.F.R. §1.98 (a)(2)(i), copies of the U.S. patents and U.S. publications are not enclosed herewith. However, if any copies are needed, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the above material and cite the same. Copies of the documents (18), (19), (20), (21), and (25) are attached hereto and all of the documents are listed on the attached PTO-1449 Form. The Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached Form and to return a copy of

the completed Form to Applicant with the next official communication in the present application.

Applicant note that a Request for Continued Examination is being filed together with the present Information Disclosure Statement, and thus no fee is believed necessary to ensure consideration of the submitted material.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully Submitted,
Hiroshi NOMURA

Wick Boshuk
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November 11, 2004
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FORM PTO-1449

U.S. Department of Commerce
Patent and Trademark OfficeAtty. Docket No.
P23687Application No.
10/646,871INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
BY APPLICANT

(Use several sheets if necessary)

Applicant
Hiroshi NOMURAFiling Date
August 25, 2003Group
2851

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS



EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	4 9 3 7 6 0 9	06/26/90	WAKABAYASI et al.			
	4 9 7 4 9 4 9	12/04/90	TANAKA			
	5 0 9 9 2 6 3	03/24/92	MATSUMOTO et al.			
	5 2 1 0 6 4 4	05/11/93	NOMURA			
	5 3 7 6 9 8 3	12/27/94	YAMAZAKI et al.			
	5 6 3 6 0 6 2	06/03/97	OKUYAMA et al.			
	5 8 7 0 2 3 2	02/09/99	TSUJI et al.			
	5 9 1 2 7 7 2	06/15/99	AOKI			
	5 9 2 6 3 2 2	07/20/99	IWASAKI			
	6 4 9 0 0 9 9	12/03/02	SASAKI			
	6 6 1 1 6 6 3	08/26/03	NAKAGAWA			
	6 7 1 1 3 4 9	03/23/04	DIRISIO			
	6 7 5 7 4 8 9	06/29/04	NOMURA et al.			
2001/	0 0 1 7 7 3 8	08/30/01	NOMURA et al.			
2002/	0 1 8 1 9 5 3	12/05/02	ICHINOKAWA			
2003/	0 0 0 7 7 9 6	01/09/03	NOMURA et al.			
	6 6 6 5 1 2 9	12/16/03	NOMURA et al.			
	5 5 4 8 4 4 6	08/20/96	ENOMOTO			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO
2003	- 1 4 9 7 2 3	05/21/03	JAPAN			X

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

1	An English language translation of Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 2002-277719, which was published on September 25, 2002.

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

*EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
BY APPLICANT**
(Use several sheets if necessary)

[illegible]

		DOCUMENT NUMBER							DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
													YES	NO

[illegible]

***EXAMINER:** Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.